

BOOK REVIEWS

THE WESTERN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

OPHTHALMIC PLASTIC SURGERY—Fifth Edition—Sidney A. Fox, MS(Ophth), MD, MED SCI D (Hon), Quondam Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, New York University School of Medicine; Visiting Ophthalmologist, Bellevue Hospital; Consultant Ophthalmologist, Bronx VA Hospital, Goldwater Memorial Hospital, Hospital for Joint Diseases and Medical Center, St. Vincent's Hospital, and Cabrini Medical Center. Grune & Stratton, Inc., Medical and Scientific Publishers, 111 Fifth Avenue, New York City (10003), 1976. 666 pages, \$39.50.

This is a greatly expanded version of the well-known text on ophthalmic plastic surgery by Dr. Sidney Fox. This increasingly important subspecialty is covered organizationally in this text by a series of chapters dealing with general principles, which is followed by extensive and detailed discussions of the management of specific lesions.

A discussion of lid, orbital and adnexal anatomy is followed by a welcome chapter written by Allan Friedman and Paul Henkind on the clinical and pathological features of eyelid and conjunctival tumors. Additional general topics are covered in chapters on the technical details of patient preparation, instrumentation, anesthesia, sutures, pegs, molds and postoperative care. General principles of grafting are discussed extensively, and certain basic techniques in ophthalmic plastic surgery are given special discussion in a separate chapter.

Details of the management of specific lesions are then covered in a systematic chapter-by-chapter classification which includes among others, discussions of lid lesions (extramarginal, large and small marginal lesions), medial and lateral cantal-lesions, major upper and lower lid reconstructions, ectropion, entropion, ptosis, cosmetic surgery, conjunctival plastic surgery, congenital and acquired anomalies, socket and orbit repairs, enucleation, lacrimal system problems and some miscellaneous topics such as tattooing, trauma, radiation (written by Joseph Newhall, M.D.) and hair-bearing grafts.

Dr. Fox's writing is among the most lucid in the ophthalmic literature, and he is one of the few authors who can describe a procedure so accurately that it is generally possible to do it following a careful reading of the description, even if the procedure has never been seen by the surgeon. While this is not a recommendation for such an approach, it is a tribute to the clarity of style which is displayed in this book. On the other hand, one might have wished for more revision of many of the drawings to bring them into more current and diagrammatic style. While numerous acceptable and very useful illustrations are naturally included, there is an occasional sense that more step-by-step diagrams would be helpful, especially to inexperienced readers. In addition, the mixture of various artistic styles is somewhat disconcerting and less easy to follow than consistent styles might be.

Any text is certain to project the author's particular bias, and ophthalmic plastic surgery has its share of controversy and varied approaches and techniques. The author tends to recognize these differences and to refer to them in print, and this not only enlivens the prose but keeps the reader apprised of the availability of alternative approaches. There will, however, be surgeons who specialize in this field who will disagree with some of the suggestions of the book and who would probably prefer that alternative approaches be given more complete treatment. Nevertheless, especially for students

or for ophthalmologists not specializing in this particular field, this book is an outstanding and eminently readable reference. It should continue to occupy an important place in any ophthalmic library, and it would clearly be a worthwhile investment for residents or ophthalmologists beginning to develop their interest in ophthalmic plastic surgery.

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DRUG TREATMENT—Principles and Practice of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics—Edited by Graeme S. Avery, Editor-in-Chief: Australasian Drug Information Services Pty Ltd, Sydney & Auckland; Editor: Drugs, Clinical Pharmacokinetics. Publishing Sciences Group Inc., 162 Great Rd., Acton, MA (01720), 1976. 1048 pages, \$25.00.

The basic theme of this book is the selection and use of drugs within a disease-oriented context. This conception has resulted in a different format than most pharmacology texts. Dr. G. S. Avery, Editor, hopes it will bridge the gap between textbooks emphasizing diagnosis and pathophysiology of disease to therapeutics.

The book is organized into three sections: (1) Clinical Pharmacology—Describes the clinical significance and use of basic pharmacokinetics and bioavailability factors in arriving at individual drug therapy, the cornerstone of clinical pharmacology. In addition there are chapters on the unique problems of prescribing for pediatric and geriatric patients, emphasizing the particular susceptibility of the elderly to adverse drug reactions and unique problems associated with self-medication in old age. The section ends with several chapters on adverse drug reactions and drug-drug interactions. (2) Therapeutics—Drug therapies of general categories of disease are considered in this section; for example, skin, endocrine, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. In general, consideration is given not only to the therapeutics in various disease states but also to what effects the disease state may have on the effect of the drug, its metabolism, distribution and excretion. A balance is attempted between trying to explain how and why a drug works and treatment. At times this seems artificial. (3) Appendices—This is a wealth of information collected together in one place that practicing physicians or students would be hard pressed to find easily on their own; particularly Appendix A, where items such as plasma half-life, volume of distribution protein binding and the like are tabulated for many commonly used drugs.

Drug Treatment is a compilation by many internationally recognized experts in clinical pharmacology; a small number of the drugs suggested are not available in the United States. The book is highly structured, well organized, and contains many subheadings in each chapter. Each chapter begins with a synopsis of important principles and ends with many recent references.

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